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ABSTRACT

This historical analysis of American Protestant university-related divinity schools from the 1880s to the present focuses on powerful social and cultural ideas that decisively influenced American education in general and Protestant theological education in particular. The study argues that, in the service of ideas of specialization, professionalization, social reform, and pluralism, leaders of divinity schools willingly embraced and perpetuated the forces of change, joining the purposes of their institutions with those of the American university. The book draws most of its data from the records of 11 institutions--five non- or interdenominational divinity schools (the University of Chicago, Harvard University, Vanderbilt University, Yale University, and Union Theological Seminary)--and 6 Methodist schools (Boston University School of Theology, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Claremont School of Theology, Drew Theological School, Duke Divinity School, and Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. In Part 1 three chapters address specialization. In Part 2 two chapters look at professionalization. In Part 3 three chapters examine formation and reform. In Part 4 two chapters look at pluralism. The final chapter looks at the ambiguities of this higher education heritage. Includes an index. (Contains 830 references.) (JB)

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